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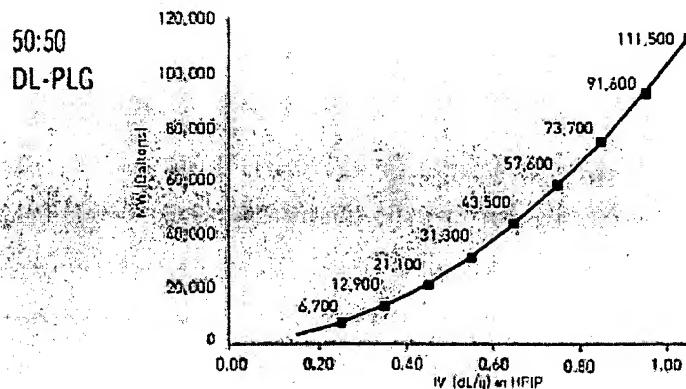
Material Safety Data Sheets

Inherent Viscosity vs. Molecular Weight

Inherent Viscosity (IV) is a viscometric method for measuring molecular weight based on the flow time of a polymer solution through a narrow capillary relative to the flow time of the pure solvent through the capillary. The units of IV are typically in deciliters per gram (dL/g). IV is simple and inexpensive to obtain and is reproducible between different laboratories.

Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC) is a chromatographic method for determining molecular size. The molecular size can be expressed as molecular weight obtained from calibration with a standard polymer such as polystyrene. Molecular weights by GPC are very method-dependant and are much less reproducible between laboratories.

The six plots below are empirical correlations between IV and MW measured for various polymer compositions produced by Direct Corporation. The IV data for poly(DL-lactide-co-glycolide) and 65:35 poly(DL-lactide-co-glycolide) were obtained in hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP). The IV data for the four remaining compositions were obtained in chloroform. All GPC data for these plots were obtained in chloroform using polystyrene calibration standards. It is important to note that these are empirical correlations between IVs and MWs. MWs obtained under conditions different from those used in our laboratory may not match the values shown here.



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